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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

STAR QUALITY

ALL EYES WILL BE ON CRISTIANO RONALDO WHEN PORTUGAL GOES UP AGAINST CZECH REPUBLIC ON THURSDAY PAGE 25

FRIDAY'S DRAW
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Thursday, June 21, 2012
News worth sharing.
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WELL, HELLO DALAI!

Charles, the Prince of Wales, receives the Dalai Lama on Wednesday at Clarence House in London. The exiled Tibetan Buddhist leader is on a weeklong tour of the United Kingdom. GARETH CATTERMOLE/WPA POOL/GETTY IMAGES

Fast times ahead?

London transit.
Rapid-bus network is central to billion-dollar transportation plan

ANGELA MULLINS
angela.mullins@metronews.ca

Imagine intersections where buses get the go-ahead before cars, busy thoroughfares with lanes set aside for public transit, and technology that extends green lights if LTC drivers are behind schedule.

Larry Ducharme METRO

Those features are at the core of London's plans for a bus rapid-transit network, which, simply put, is all about "getting where you need to go faster," said Larry Ducharme, general manager of the London Transit Commission.

The network is the centrepiece of the $1.2-billion transportation master plan unveiled this week at city hall. While the biggest chunk of the cost — $745 million — is for major projects such as widening congested streets, the strategy itself is built around creating the new bus network. It's a shift away from thinking of cars as the Forest City's primary people-movers.

At an estimated $340 million, the bus network's price tag is steep. But some say the city can't afford not to do it.

"The status quo is not good enough," said Coun. Joni Baechler, noting public money for building "old-school" roads is drying up.

If the transportation plan is endorsed by council next week, the next step will be building a business case to seek provincial and federal funding. It could be nearly a decade — 2020 — before the system is fully operational. But the working plan, Ducharme said, is to build the network in pieces. The first changes could come as soon as a year to 18 months from now.

The plan

- Bus rapid transit would consist of a north-south corridor from White Oaks Mall to Masonville Place mall, and an east-west corridor from Oakridge Mall to just east of Fanshawe College.

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Public safety

Open-air burning ban on until further notice

Due to a Ministry of Environment smog alert, combined with extreme temperatures, the London Fire Department has issued a ban on all open-air burns within City of London boundaries until further notice.
METRO

Fun day

Play ball and have a good time

The annual Nelson Park softball fun day for players, families and the Argyle community is happening Saturday at Bonaventure Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

There will be skills activities for Nelson Park players, as well as a bouncy castle and obstacle course free for kids. Other activities include carnival games, face painting, and a radar gun to check your pitching speed.

Visit nelsonpark.org for more details. METRO

Fundraiser

Help support the Independent Living Centre

The Independent Living Centre is inviting Londoners to come out on Saturday to support those with disabilities in the Forest City at Come Walk with Me. The ninth annual walk and wheel-a-thon will take place in Greenway Park from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will also feature games, music and a barbecue.

Visit ilcla.ca for more details. METRO

From left, Brikena Qamili, 18, Poedams Yellwee, 29, Florence Tarawalley, 23, and Roshan Darjee, 30, all of London, share their experiences as refugee youths during Wednesday's Life as a Refugee event at Wolf Performance Hall. The London Cross Cultural Learner Centre event marked World Refugee Day. ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Newcomers build a new life in London

Homecoming. London refugees share stories, build bridges

ANGELA MULLINS
angela.mullins@metronews.ca

At 40 years old, Nada Matti is building her fourth life.

This time, it's in London — the city Matti landed in almost three years ago after fleeing war-torn Iraq as a refugee in 1992.

Then 22, Matti and her family left Baghdad for Jordan where they spent four years. From there, it was on to Lebanon for 15 years.

North America was always the end goal, Matti said.

London just happened to be the place immigration officials chose for her, something she found out at the Toronto airport after leaving the Middle East.

Calling the journey painless would be a lie. So would calling Matti anything less than a fighter.

"It's not easy to leave everything," Matti said. "It was good and bad. Good because at last you will have life and safety. But you leave your neighbours, family … all your life."

Sharing struggles, successes and, in some cases, painful memories, people like Matti were the faces at the forefront of a Wednesday event marking World Refugee Day in London.

Organized by the London Cross Cultural Learner Centre and a host of partners, Life as a Refugee was a full day of discussion and performances aimed at creating awareness about the community's needs.

The annual program started in 2009 as a way to bridge the gap between service providers and refugees living in the city. While that's still a main goal, the event's also turned into a chance for people to tell their stories with the hope that they may inspire others to overcome hurdles, like mental-health issues and cultural differences.

Hope and optimism, Matti said, have helped keep her moving forward.

"You have to push yourself and prepare a new life," she said. "You can't return to Iraq. You can't do anything else."

By the numbers

200

Estimated number of government-assisted refugees the London Cross Cultural Learner Centre helped in fiscal year 2011-12.

War of 1812. Bicentennial makes native celebration even more special

For more than two decades, London's native community has participated in an annual celebration called National Aboriginal Solidarity Day.

This year's event, scheduled to run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday in Harris Park, holds a special meaning to organizers, as it's the bicentennial of the War of 1812 — a landmark event in native American/Canadian history.

"Because of the tenacity and wit of the indigenous people in trying to protect and ensure the cycles of life would continue, we're now the country of Canada," organizer Denise Ritchie said.

Londoners of all ages and ethnicities are encouraged to stop by the once-a-year gathering in order to experience native culture, Ritchie says.

"All Canadians should take some time to celebrate this day."

Ritchie says the combination of traditional native activities, such as a grand-entry powwow and smoke dance, with vendors and gate prizes will create a "carnival-type atmosphere."

The event is being hosted by a number of community organizations, including the London Public Library, WOTCH, and the Athlohsa Native Family Healing Services. JOHN MATISZ/METRO

Schedule

Highlights from the National Aboriginal Solidarity Day schedule:

- **Noon –** Grand-entry powwow.
- **1-4 p.m. –** Smoke dance and art contest.

Assault allegations. Drew Doughty likely to be cleared: Reports

Reports from Los Angeles say that local hockey star and Stanley Cup champion Drew Doughty will likely have his name cleared in a sexual-assault investigation

TMZ is reporting that, due to a lack of evidence, the district attorney in L.A. will reject the case that stemmed from an alleged incident on March 1.

The celebrity news website says a woman filed a police report claiming she ran into Doughty at a bar in Hermosa Beach in the early hours of March 1 and he asked her to come back to his home.

The woman claims she swore at Doughty, rejecting him in front of his L.A. Kings teammates, and that they laughed.

Drew Doughty

TMZ says the woman alleged to police that Doughty was embarrassed, got her into a cab, took her home and sexually assaulted her.

Doughty was never charged in the case. AM980/AM980.CA

1 NEWS

On the web

Open interview not open to this guy

One crazy fan took his love of fame (and video bombing) to a whole new level when he rudely interrupted Webb Simpson's interview after his 2012 U.S. Open win. Go to metronews.ca to watch the now-infamous screech.

Even the tortoises in Galapagos are splitting

The media went into a frenzy after receiving news that a pair of giant Galapagos tortoises, Bibi and Poldi, were breaking up after 115 years together. Go to metronews.ca to see the love affair in photos.

Mobile news

A new survey of young Canadians suggests respondents believe there are benefits to giving their credit cards an active workout, but they may be overlooking some of the consequences when it's time to pay up. Scan the code to read the story.

U.S.-born Rippers embracing heat wave

Frontier League. With nearly half of team's active roster hailing from southern states, summery weather offers familiar turf

JOHN MATISZ
john.matisz@metronews.ca

If this heat wave is paying off for any local sports team, it has to be the London Rippers.

"This is just like playing at home, man; it's so nice," Rippers pitcher and Arlington, Texas, native Matt Schimpf, 23, said cheerfully in mid-30 C heat Wednesday afternoon.

The Frontier League squad's clubhouse is full of players from the Deep South and other hot areas.

Their newest recruit, an infielder by the name of Shane Bagley, is a native of Nunelly, Tenn. His inclusion brings London's Tennessee-Florida-California-Texas count to 11, or nearly half of the active roster.

While Schimpf notes "when you get on the field, baseball is baseball," the similarities between where he's from and southwestern Ontario pretty much end there.

The former University of Texas at Tyler hurler misses his favourite fast-food joint, Whataburger, which has locations in states like Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma.

"I love that stuff. I wish they had it up here," Schimpf added.

When everyday outfielder David Christensen touched down in the Forest City in May, it was the first time he had set foot on Canadian soil. Christensen, a Parkland, Fla., native, is certainly acclimatized to the relentless heat — but not quite the lingo just yet.

"It's weird to think how cold it is certain times of the year here because right now, it's bright sunshine and hot," the former Colorado Rockies second-round pick said. "One of the things I've noticed that is different about Canada is how people talk. You guys use 'Grade 7' instead of 'Eighth Grade,' for example."

Then there's charismatic hitting coach Vinny Ganz.

"I miss the good Italian sauce," Ganz said. "Nobody cooks like ma."

Despite calling northeastern Waterbury, Conn., home, Ganz was only introduced to Canada through his experience as a Rippers employee. In fact, he gave popular Canadian restaurant chain Boston Pizza a try just the other day.

All in all, the Rippers base of southerners isn't complaining.

"This city's gorgeous," Christensen said. "It's just like an American city."

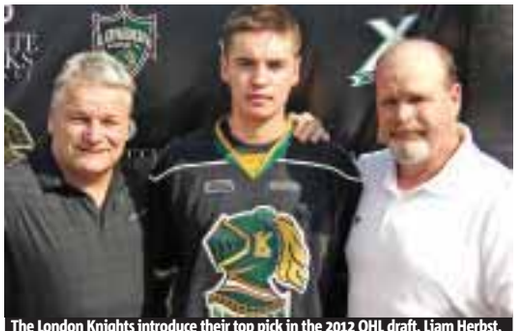
Follow John Matisz on Twitter @Metro_JMatisz

Where they're from

- Canada (Ontario, Quebec) — 4
- Northern U.S. (Ohio, Michigan, New York, Washington, Maryland, New Jersey, Connecticut) — 9
- Southern U.S. (California, Texas, Tennessee, Florida) — 11

Recently signed infielder Shane Bagley, 24, of Nunelly, Tenn., polishes off his batting stance as London Rippers hitting coach Vinny Ganz, of Waterbury, Conn., tosses a ball his way in Labatt Memorial Park on Tuesday evening. For the results of Wednesday night's game against the Lake Erie Crushers, visit metronews.ca. JOHN MATISZ/METRO

'The only thing I can control is how hard I work': Herbst



The London Knights introduce their top pick in the 2012 OHL draft, Liam Herbst, 15, of Etobicoke, Ont., at a media conference Tuesday afternoon. He is joined here by Knights co-owners Dale, left, and Mark Hunter. JOHN MATISZ/METRO

The last time the London Knights used their initial selection in the OHL draft on a goaltender, they opted for Michael Zador.

The highly touted prospect was snatched up in the No. 20 spot in 2007. Zador played a total of 11 games for the Knights before departing to Oshawa in a 12-piece swap that brought now-NHLers John Tavares and Michael Del Zotto to London.

Five years later, the Knights have signed goalie Liam Herbst, their lone first-round pick in April's draft.

"I can't control the decisions that Mark and Dale (Hunter) make," said Herbst, the first netminder taken in the 303-player draft. "The only thing I can control is how hard I work."

In the hockey community, it's common knowledge goaltenders cause sufficient stress for scouting departments. Predicting the long-term potential of a netminder is frequently difficult.

Look no further than the enigmatic case of Michael Houser, the Knights' unanimous MVP last season who could potentially turn pro next year. He went from undrafted in the OHL to a record-breaking season in just over three years.

Though Herbst's role remains to be seen, especially in the 2012-13 season, the Knights needed to refill the goalie cupboard.

"He's a big goalie that has won the OHL Cup," Mark Hunter said of the Etobicoke native. "He's athletic … he's in shape. He's got a good glove. He's competitive."

A major adjustment for most incoming Knights, goaltenders and position players alike, is learning to feel comfortable when playing in front of 9,000-plus people at the John Labatt Centre. Next to the Quebec City Ramparts, London usually ranks atop the entire CHL in yearly attendance.

Herbst believes he'll be able to channel his inner Houser.

"I try not to focus on the stands, but it's one of those things where I won't know until I play my first game," the six-foot-three, 180-pounder said. "I played two games in front of 2,000-plus people last year and did well."

JOHN MATISZ/METRO

Virtuoso Awards

Bullying campaign recognized

The Pledge to End Bullying campaign received two Awards of Excellence at the International Association of Business Communicators Virtuoso Awards gala held in London recently.

The awards recognize excellence in communications management by partners Thames Valley District School Board and CTV London in the categories of community relations and media relations. METRO

Promoting inclusivity

Banting Secondary gets Safe Schools Award

Sir Frederick Banting Secondary School has received the premier's Safe Schools Award for creativity and leadership in promoting an inclusive school climate.

Banting is one of only 10 schools across Ontario to receive the award. Its safe and healthy schools committee is a group of about 60 students assisted by staff advisors. METRO

Backyard pools

City launches pool enforcement blitz

Londoners with a backyard pool could find themselves in hot water with city bylaw officers if they're caught breaking the rules.

During the next two weeks, officers will be conducting an enforcement blitz of the city's swimming pool fence bylaw.

A violation could cost the homeowner a fine of $350, plus additional costs to bring the pool up to code. AM980/AM980.CA

Toronto gala

Orchestra London director honoured

Orchestra London music director Alain Trudel will be attending the Toronto Mayor's Arts Awards on Thursday, an honour extended to him as he wraps up his eight-year tenure as music director of the Toronto Youth Symphony Orchestra.

The Toronto Arts Council hand-selected the event's guests as people who have made significant contributions to the city. METRO

METRO AT THE DRAFT
Metro reporter John Matisz is heading to the NHL entry draft in Pittsburgh. Follow him on Twitter as he follows the Knights all weekend. You can also read his stories online at metronews.ca, and in Monday's paper.
Twitter: @Metro_Jmatisz

Summer election averted

Ontario budget.
NDP abstains as Liberals outvote Conservatives to pass budget

A summer election in Ontario was averted Wednesday with the passage of the minority Liberal government's budget.

Despite forcing the Liberals to make several changes, such as delaying corporate tax cuts and adding a tax on incomes over $500,000, the New Democrats did not vote for the budget.

The NDP abstained on the final vote, leaving the Liberals to outvote the Progressive Conservatives 52 to 35 to pass their budget, avoiding the automatic defeat of the minority government.

Right up until the final vote, the Liberals said they did not trust the New Democrats to keep their word and let the budget pass after breaking two previous agreements on the fiscal plan.

The Liberals are furious with the NDP for teaming with the Tories to make more changes to the budget after the government made concessions to get New Democratic support.

The government had a new spin Wednesday on last week's threats by Premier Dalton McGuinty to call a snap election if there were any more major changes to the budget.

"On Thursday afternoon, the New Democrats with the support of the Tories began to remove very significant sections of the budget bill and we saw that — perhaps we were wrong — as a fundamental break of that agreement," said Liberal campaign chairman Greg Sorbara.

"As a result, our premier did exactly what he needed to do, to inform the people that if the budget does not pass the government must resign and there must be an election."

The New Democrats are pleased with the changes they forced in the budget, but are just as mad at the Liberals for calling party Leader Andrea Horwath disingenuous and a backstabber.

The Progressive Conservatives condemned the budget the day it was introduced for failing to rein in government spending, and voted against it as a block. THE CANADIAN PRESS

One final vote

After the budget bill was given royal assent by Lt.-Gov. David Onley, there was one final vote to approve the tax changes in the budget before the legislature adjourned for the summer.

New playground on the block

Kindergarten children from Northridge Public School (25 McLean Dr.) gather around their new soft playground structure for a photo Wednesday morning, during the grand-opening celebration of the school's newest outdoor play area. Along with the purchase of the soft playground, children will now have a sectioned-off area surrounded by murals, gardens and outside chalkboards. The project was funded mainly by the Northridge Parent-Teacher Association, and will be used on a regular basis by about 125 kindergarten students. JOHN MATISZ/METRO

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Terror in Toulouse — again

Hostages saved.
Police storm a bank in the area where seven people were killed by a terrorist gunman in March

A hostage-taking Wednesday left the French city of Toulouse traumatized for the second time in three months.

Police stormed a bank and captured a gunman who took four of its employees hostage.

Tensions have been high in Toulouse since March, when a gunman who claimed links to the al-Qaida terror network killed three Jewish schoolchildren, a rabbi and three paratroopers.

This time, officials waved off reports the latest suspect had ties to al-Qaida, saying he had psychiatric problems.

Prosecutor Michel Valet said the gun, used twice during the six-hour ordeal, fired only rubber bullets, and the gunman had no prior police record.

The hostages were released unharmed, while the suspect was hospitalized with two bullet wounds in the left hand and left thigh.

Among those moved to safety in the area were four-year-olds and five-year-olds from a private language school next to the bank.

The Prefect of the Haute-Garonne region, Henri-Michel Comet, said 150 police were mobilized, 30 of them from the elite GIPN squad.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

City in fear

"I'm worried about the climate that reigns in this city."

Fearful Doriane Clermont, 23, who lives across the street from the bank with her three-year-old son.

Police secure the area after a gunman took four people hostage in a Toulouse bank Wednesday. BRUNO MARTIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Court all set to debate the state of Breivik's brain

Sane or insane? Anders Behring Breivik, left, is watched by two psychiatrists during his Oslo mass-murder trial. HEIKO JUNGE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Do prosecutors think confessed mass killer Anders Behring Breivik is insane or not?

They're not saying — for now.

But "the decision has been made," prosecutor Svein Holden told reporters in Norway on Wednesday.

Closing arguments begin Thursday in a trial that has captivated Norway since the middle of April.

Ultimately, judges will decide Breivik's mental state when they hand down a verdict in July or August.

Breivik, a self-described anti-Muslim militant, has admitted he carried out the bombing and shooting rampage that left 77 people dead last July, so guilt is not an issue.

The main issue is whether to send the 33-year-old Norwegian to a prison or a mental institution.

Weeks of fractious testimony from mental-health experts suggest it's a complicated decision — and Breivik's behaviour in court has not made it any easier.

At the end of Wednesday's Oslo hearing, Breivik complained not enough attention was given to his suffering at seeing Norway become a multicultural society.

"This case is about Norway's future, and Europe's future, and these were themes they should have addressed," he said.

He added it was "a traumatic experience ... to be stigmatized as a narrow-minded Islamophobe and a right-wing extremist."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pivotal week

Prosecutors will present their views on Breivik's mental state on Thursday. The defence will get its chance Friday.

- **Panel.** The five judges have at least a month to deliberate before delivering a verdict.
- **Jail.** If found sane, Breivik faces a 21-year term.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT SWIFFER.CA

Immigration law

New legislation curbs deportation appeals

New legislation introduced Wednesday by the Conservative government gives greater powers to the immigration and public safety ministers to determine who gets to come and stay in Canada. The Faster Removal of Foreign Criminals Act seeks to cut off avenues for convicted criminals to appeal their deportation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Report leaked

PM's security detail thrust into spotlight

RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson decried Wednesday the leak of an internal report that raised concerns about the prime minister's security detail, calling it "unlawful."

And Paulson also conceded it might boil down to a case of payback against the officer in charge of the unit.

The leak of the management report to Radio-Canada this week thrust a normally low-profile unit into the spotlight. Members of the prime minister's office past and present sprung to the defence of Supt. Bruno Saccomani, saying he had actually brought improvements to the unit.

The management review included interviews with 41 per cent of the 116-member unit, and said a majority of members reported problems with their boss, including intimidation and favouritism. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Thailand deaths

Bodies of Canadian sisters released

The bodies of two Canadian sisters who died in Thailand are expected to arrive home Thursday, a relative said.

Their uncle said that because preliminary autopsies have already been completed, Thai medical authorities have agreed to release the bodies of Audrey and Noemi Belanger, who died under mysterious circumstances.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Khadr's legal team to urge transfer

Press conference. Unlike Khadr's previous lawyers, current group has kept a low profile

Omar Khadr
THE CANADIAN PRESS

The federal government was sticking to its lines about the delayed transfer of convicted war criminal Omar Khadr from Guantanamo Bay on the eve of a Thursday news conference by his normally taciturn legal team.

Two months after an official request by the Americans to take Khadr off their hands, Public Safety Minister Vic Toews said there was nothing new to say about the case.

"I've made no decision in that. I'll make a decision in due course, in accordance with the law."

That's been Ottawa's line ever since it became clear that the Americans were seeking to have the Toronto-born Khadr transferred to Canada to serve out the rest of his sentence.

Khadr, 25, pleaded guilty in October 2010 to war crimes committed in Afghanistan in 2002 as a 15-year-old — including murder, in violation of the rules of war.

In return for his plea before a widely maligned military commission, he was sentenced to eight years, with one year to be served in Guantanamo Bay. He was eligible for transfer last October.

Earlier this year, sources said the transfer — in accordance with promises Ottawa made at the time of Khadr's plea bargain — was on track to happen by the end of May. That hasn't happened.

On Wednesday, Khadr's legal team — Canadian lawyers John Norris and Brydie Bethell, and his Pentagon-appointed lawyers Lt.-Col. Jon Jackson and Maj. Matthew Schwartz — announced they would hold a news conference in Ottawa to update the public on the delayed transfer.

They are to be joined by Sen. Romeo Dallaire, a longtime advocate for child soldiers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RCMP Act. Top Mountie needs more disciplinary powers, says minister

The federal government wants to arm the RCMP commissioner with greater powers to discipline or even fire people who give the force a bad name.

Public Safety Minister Vic Toews says there is too much red tape in the current process for weeding out wrongdoers.

"There's no doubt that changes are needed," he told a news conference, flanked by RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson.

"The RCMP Act has not been significantly amended for over 25 years."

Toews announced proposed changes Wednesday, intended to untie Paulson's hands as he looks into complaints.

Several female RCMP officers have come forward since Cpl. Catherine Galliford went public in November with allegations of harassment within the force in British Columbia.

Men have also complained of abusive behaviour and intimidation.

Paulson, who took over as commissioner late last year, says ridding the force of dark-hearted behaviour is one of his priorities.

He recently expressed frustration about the bureaucratic barriers to doing so.

The legislation introduced Wednesday — as the House of Commons prepared to rise for the summer — also includes measures to modernize the watchdog that handles public complaints about the RCMP and enhance transparency when Mounties themselves are under police investigation.

Toews said the RCMP's current disciplinary procedures are outdated and inefficient.

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Wildfire

Greek firefighter dies battling blaze in air-force base

A Greek firefighter died Wednesday while helping to battle a large wildfire inside an air-force base west of Athens, authorities say.

A fire department statement said the 28-year-old felt unwell and was rushed to a nearby hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Greek air-force spokesman Constantinos Grapsas said the blaze is not endangering installations at the Elefsina base — primarily used by firefighting and transport planes.

Grapsas said 40 fire engines, seven water-dropping aircraft, one helicopter and 160 firefighters are battling the blaze.

Meanwhile, two firefighters were hospitalized after being injured while battling a separate fire in Salamis, an island off the southern port of Piraeus.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Suicide bombing

3 U.S. troops, 15 Afghans may have died: Officials

Pentagon officials say as many as three U.S. troops and 15 Afghans may have been killed in a suicide bombing in eastern Afghanistan.

Officials spoke on condition of anonymity Wednesday because details of the incident were sketchy and the officials weren't authorized to talk about it publicly.

Early reports from Afghans said a car packed with explosives rammed into vehicles in an international military convoy.

But U.S. Defence Department officials say it's not clear whether it was a convoy.

A suicide vest is suspected to have been used.

While the Americans believed killed were all military, U.S. officials say the Afghans were security and civilian. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New Greek PM to uphold euro bailout commitments

Greece's newly sworn-in Prime Minister Antonis Samaras waves to supporters in Athens on Wednesday. KOSTAS TSIRONIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New government for Greece. Conservative party chief sworn in as prime minister leading a three-party coalition

Greek conservative party head Antonis Samaras was sworn in as prime minister Wednesday at the helm of a three-party coalition that will uphold the country's international bailout commitments.

The move ends a protracted political crisis that had cast grave doubt over the country's future in Europe's joint currency and threatened to plunge the continent deeper into a financial crisis with global repercussions.

But the new government still has massive challenges ahead: It must deliver on pledges by its predecessors to generate huge new savings, privatize publicly owned companies and real estate, cut about 150,000 civil-service jobs in coming years and open restricted professions to competition.

Samaras, a U.S.-educated 61-year-old economist, was sworn in three days after his New Democracy party won the second national elections in six weeks but without enough votes to form a government on its own. He is Greece's fourth prime minister in eight months.

The conservatives will join forces with the socialist PASOK party, which came in third place, and the smaller Democratic Left led by Fotis Kouvelis. Discussions on the lineup of ministers were to be completed by Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fraud allegations. Delay in announcing winner of Egyptian election

Egyptian election officials delayed the announcement of the winner of Egypt's presidential election, which had been expected Thursday, and gave no date for a decision, hiking tension as allegations of fraud swirled and each candidate declared he was the victor.

Amid the atmosphere of political confusion, the Muslim Brotherhood claimed there was an organized campaign of allegations against it to mar the election and keep its candidate, Mohammed Morsi, out of the presidency. The accusation raises temperatures and the possibility of a backlash from the Brotherhood if its rival — former prime minister Ahmed Shafiq — is declared the winner.

On top of the potentially explosive dispute over the election is murkiness over the latest health scare of the 84-year-old former dictator Hosni Mubarak. State media reported that he suffered a stroke. Mubarak was ousted last year and is now in jail.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RIM shares down as job cuts start in bid to save $1B

Research in Motion. Analyst estimates BlackBerry maker could cut 3,000 employees — after 2,000 cuts last year

BlackBerry-maker Research in Motion Ltd. has begun the grim task of cutting jobs in a bid to save $1 billion as part of a plan to right the company as it races to bring its new models to market later this year.

The company said Wednesday that it's looking for at least $1 billion in savings by the end of its 2013 financial year and job cuts are part of that plan.

RIM — which did not provide specific numbers regarding the cuts — is expected to provide a business update when it reports its first-quarter results on June 28.

Wedbush Securities analyst Scott Sutherland estimated that RIM could cut as many as 3,000 employees in its bid to reduce costs, which would top last year's cut of around 2,000.

"I think RIM is finally making the hard decisions," he said.

"It is a tough time for them, but they need to ensure profitability, speed to market, and get these new devices out."

Sutherland said much is riding on a new line of BlackBerry phones powered by the BlackBerry 10 operating system, which are expected later this year.

Advance estimates on how many jobs would be lost ranged wildly from 2,000, or about 12 per cent of the workforce, to 5,000, or about 30 per cent.

Last July, RIM laid off about 11 per cent of its workforce, or 2,000 employees, marking the biggest employee reduction in its history.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Offices

In addition to its main base in Waterloo, Ont., RIM also has a customer-service centre in Halifax that services users in Canada, the U.S. and South America.

- Other smaller offices are based in Mississauga, Ont., and Ottawa where they have been combined with staff of QNX Software Systems, the company that designed the operating system behind the PlayBook and the next generation of BlackBerry devices.

U.S. Federal Reserve

Fed extends 'Twist' program with $267B

The U.S. Federal Reserve acted Wednesday to lift an economy held back by a weakened job market, extending a program designed to spur borrowing and spending through lower long-term U.S. interest rates.

After a two-day meeting, the Fed said in a statement that it will continue a program called Operation Twist through year's end.

Under the program, the Fed has been selling $400 billion US in short-term Treasurys since September and buying longer-term Treasurys. It said it will extend the program through December using $267 billion in securities.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
98.12¢ US (-0.09¢)

TSX
11,759.34 (-29.02)

OIL
$81.80 US (-$2.23)

GOLD
$1,615.80 US (-$7.40)

Natural gas: $2.517 US (-2.8¢)
Dow Jones: 12,824.39 (-25.35)

Burger King goes public, again

Burger King Corp. CEO Bernardo Hees, right, talks with specialist Donald Himpele on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Wednesday after the world's No. 2 hamburger chain began trading as a public company again under the ticker symbol "BKW." The Miami-based chain had last traded as a public company between 2006 and 2010, before it was purchased and taken private by investment firm 3G Capital. RICHARD DREW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

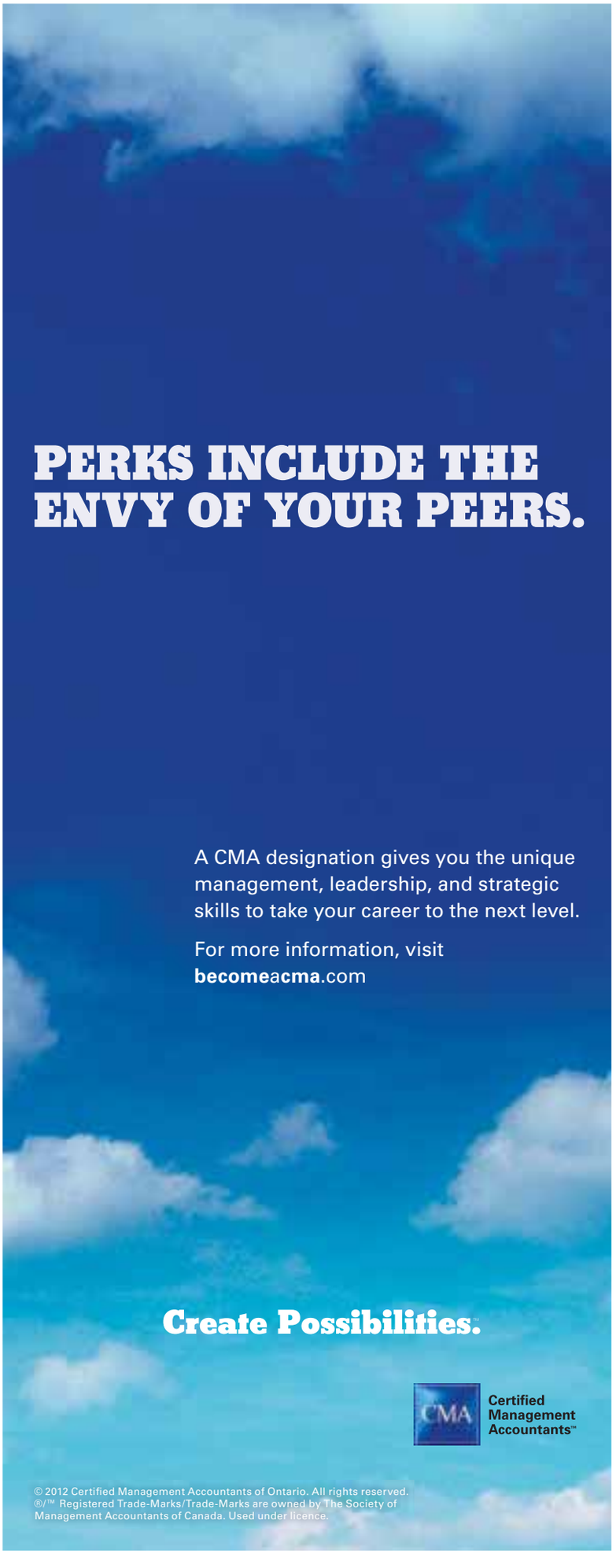
Economy. Momentum to slow, forecasts project

New private-sector forecasts see Canada's economy struggling to maintain momentum in the next two years, held back by weak job growth and vulnerable to both external and internal shocks.

Under this scenario, the CIBC says Canadians will likely be able to take advantage of historically low interest rates into 2014. But the Bank of Canada need not be overly worried about households continuing to pile on debt as a result of generous loan conditions, it added to its latest economic report released Wednesday, which noted that credit growth continues to slow even with today's low interest rates.

The two forecasts — from CIBC and Capital Economics — both project the Canadian economy will register the lowest annual growth rates since the recession in the next two years. CIBC says growth will average 2.1 per cent in both 2012 and 2013, whereas Capital Economics expects an even slower pace, at two per cent in 2012 and 1.5 per cent in 2013.

THE CANADIAN PRESS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CONSERVATIVES' GUIDE TO CALLING SOMEONE AN A-HOLE

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca/hesays

FROM: Conservative party headquarters
TO: All MPs
SUBJECT: Email etiquette

Dear MPs,

As you've probably heard, we had an email faux pas this week when the immigration minister hit "reply all" on an email, making this the most open and transparent this government has ever been.

Jason Kenney meant to call Alberta's deputy premier a "complete and utter Albertan" but — wouldn't you know it? — auto-correct or spell-check or some darn thing changed it to a different A-word. I won't say which one, but let's just say it's not as clean as the oilsands (officially).

While as a Canadian majority government we can technically do whatever we want, it's important to remember some of the basic rules of email etiquette to better facilitate relationships and to make our day-to-day jobs easier.

The Basics:

- Always use a pleasant greeting and closing. If you are a federal minister, try to steer clear of the A-bomb.
- Address your contact with the proper level of formality. If they are the deputy premier of a major province, go with "Mr. Jerkface."
- Writing in all caps, adding italics, or writing "!!!" does not make your point any more forceful. However, if you *DO ALL THREE???* I think the impact speaks for itself.

Spam and scam:

- Be wary of spam, especially emails that seem out of character for the sender. Porn links from the Saudi family, for instance, are almost certainly spam unless it's from Deputy Minister of Defence Khalid bin Sultan. Dude is off the hook.
- Make sure you're not accidentally deleting emails from the Spam-meat headquarters in Burlington, Ont. Once, we didn't reply to their emails for months and we missed a picnic invite.
- It's unacceptable to send corny or tasteless jokes in weird fonts and tell people to pass it on. That's what Facebook is for.

International relations:

- Always respond promptly to Nigerian princes. They're royalty, for goodness sake, and they need your help.
- Done properly, a nod to an associate's foreign culture can be well received. ("Congratulations on your son's marriage. UOL!" where the UOL stands for ululating out loud.)
- "Please!" and "Thank you!" go a long way when lecturing other countries about how to run their economies.
- Finally, remember that even the tensest diplomatic exchange can be livened up with Comic Sans.

Hopefully this brief refresher course helped! Please forward this to five other people in your office by midnight or you will never find true love.

Also, if you have anything to say about Kenney, please hit "reply to sender" only.

Many thanks,
Conservative Party of Canada

Minister of Immigration Jason Kenney has apologized to Alberta Deputy Premier Thomas Lukaszuk for his "A-hole" comment.
SEAN KILPATRICK/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

Germany — the missing piece

ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia-Germany

Putting the puzzle together

People put together a jigsaw puzzle of a self-portrait of Albrecht Durer in front of the state historical museum and a monument to Soviet-era Marshal Georgy Zhukov in Manezh Square outside the Kremlin in Moscow on Wednesday. The 300-square-metre puzzle is being set up on the occasion of the German Year in Russia.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Celebration

- The joint exhibition Germans and Russians — 1,000 Years of History, Art, and Culture, is the highlight of the opening of the German Year in Russia.
- On the German side, the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation is in charge of the exhibition, which will be shown at the Neues Museum in Berlin starting in October in connection with the beginning of the Russia Year in Germany.

Countries collaborating

"The projects, which have been jointly conceived by Russian and German partners, place a high value on co-operation and exchange."

Minister of State Cornelia Pieper, in a statement regarding the collaboration between Germany and Russia.

Cost

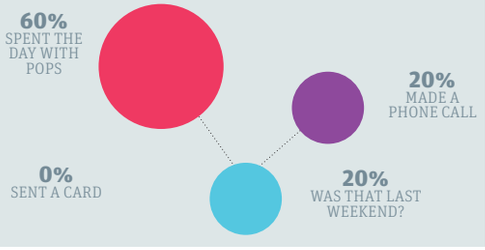
€3.6M

This year's German Year programming is funded with 3.6 million euros ($4.7 million) from public funds.

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

For Father's Day you:



Twitter

@kenzzz__: My favourite people in the world are coming down in a few weeks! @shelbstom @devinnetrudelle

@Jsizzle519: I hate when people get distant, especially cause they start seeing someone #peace

@Labtech67: So sad this is DD's last full day if preschool. But I'm not going to miss the "look at me annoying mom".

@knitty_kat: It's shopping therapy time with @orangeheromama ! Now at the @Goodwill_OGL book store #ldnont

@sarah_ruralista: Hey #LdnOnt does anyone know where I can get some tomatillos? Green tomato-ish veggies with husks? @CoventGardenLDN? @LauraDFoodie?

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Melissa Parrott, co-founder of Ladyfest. HANDOUT

Ladyfest not just for the ladies

Festival. Ladyfest started four years ago in response to the dearth of XX chromosome performers at music shows

BACKSTAGE PASS
Amanda Grant
london@metronews.ca

"There are a lot of supportive people in London and a lot of creative people," says Melissa Parrott, co-founder of Ladyfest London. "When we can come together, beautiful things can happen."

Starting today, Ladyfest will invade six city venues, from the Wolf Performance Hall at the Central Library to the East Village Arts Co-op to Club Lavish, aiming to highlight all the creative things women do.

Parrott started the festival in 2008 when she and her roommate at the time noticed a trend in events they were attending.

"We had been to so many music festivals where you were lucky to see one female performer," Parrott says. "It's the same with mainstream cinema and art."

They saw a need, and with the help of a supportive community got to work.

"I believe if you want to see something happen – do it," Parrott says.

Now celebrating its fourth year, Ladyfest is pulling out all the stops.

Tonight there is a film screening at the Wolf Performance Hall. Friday there's live music and an art exhibition at the East Village Arts Co-op followed by a dance party and burlesque show at Lavish on Dundas Street. Saturday boasts a full day and night of performances at EVAC and The London Music Club, including sets by local favourites The Alcohollys and Lonnie in the Garden.

The festival runs through Sunday promoting music, art, crafts, and community — all created and sustained by women.

"We have a very vibrant feminist community here in London," says Lavender Menace, one of the event's co-ordinators. "Ladyfest is a celebration of that."

Everyone is encouraged to get involved. Be it submitting art for the exhibition, joining in an open mic concert Sunday afternoon at Grooves, or just showing up to watch.

"This festival isn't about excluding men, it's about focusing on women," Parrott says. "We need men to be a part of this, we want them to come to events and join us in the celebration."

"This is about creating safe spaces," Menace says. "I encourage folks to be in the space that we create. It's inspiring."

All of Ladyfest's events are pay-what-you-can with a suggested donation of $5 to $10 and proceeds will be donated to Safe Space London.

Around town

- Don't forget your SPF for Up On Carling's Sunny Daze event. The electronic dance party will take place on the venues patio Sunday starting at 2 p.m. so grab a hat and get moving.
- It's that time again: Artfusion 24 is here with pieces by local urban artists on display. The exhibition meets hip-hop show starts at 7 p.m. on Saturday at APK Live.

NEED COOL DESIGN TIPS?
Read metro home every Thursday.

2 SCENE

Scene in brief

Mulroney says Good Morning

One of Canada's best-known TV personalities is joining the weekend edition of Good Morning America. ABC says Ben Mulroney will begin appearing on the New York-based series this Saturday. That's in addition to his ongoing role as co-anchor of CTV's entertainment show eTalk. The job follows Mulroney's two recent appearances as co-host of the morning talk show Live! with Kelly Ripa. Those stints marked Mulroney's first broadcasting gigs in front of a U.S. audience. In a release, ABC News president Ben Sherwood calls Mulroney "a terrific broadcaster" who is "quick on his feet and excels at live television."
THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

Jacksons prepare 16-city tour without brother Michael, 3 years after his death

The bottle-smashing brawl at a New York nightclub between the crews and hangers-on of Drake and Chris Brown left one R&B singer with a nasty gash on his chin and boiling blood between the two. While they don't always end up in the ER, celebrity beefs certainly have a tendency to overcook. We take a look at some of the juiciest flaps of the last decade.

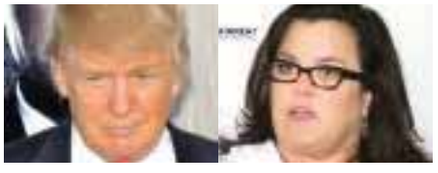
MIKE DOJC
scene@metronews.ca

5 Celebrity beefs

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Kanye West vs. Taylor Swift

At the 2009 MTV VMAs, when the country star won Best Female Video, Kanye snatched the microphone from her hands, rendering Taylor speechless and fans shell shocked. "I'm sorry, but Beyoncé had one of the best videos of all time," the rapper told the crowd. Amid a torrent of uniform condemnation, he defused the situation by apologizing on Jay Leno's show. While any ill will from the stage-crashing debacle has long ago abated, the expression "pulling a Kanye" still remains in the popular lexicon.
Beef Rating: Skirt Steak



Donald Trump vs. Rosie O'Donnell

This ongoing spat was sparked by comments Rosie made after Trump's decision to allow a Miss USA winner to keep her crown after allegations of underage drinking. In their epic battle of barbs he's been called a "snake-oil salesman" and a "pimp." Meanwhile, she's been labelled a "true loser" and "a terrible, disgusting human being." This past March after Rosie's Oprah Network talk show was cancelled, Trump told Fox and Friends: "Frankly, that was just going to happen. I knew it immediately when they announced it." He added, "Some moron will come and hire her again to do something else and that will fail. At some point, let her rest. Let her go away."
Beef Rating: Porterhouse

Stephen Baldwin vs. Kevin Costner

In late 2010 the Baldwin brother best known for his role in The Usual Suspects filed a lawsuit against Costner alleging that the Field of Dreams actor duped him out of millions. Baldwin, an early investor in Costner's Ocean Therapy Solutions, sold out just days before a contract to sell the company's oil spill cleaning equipment to BP was announced. It took a jury just two hours to find Baldwin's claim without merit.
Beef Rating: Tenderloin Roast

Noel Gallagher vs. Robbie Williams

This gristly Britpop beef nearly charbroiled when the Oasis guitarist dumped on Williams in an interview calling him "the fat dancer from Take That." Williams lashed back at Gallagher, calling him a "mean-spirited dwarf" and following an Oasis album release mailed him a wreath with a note reading: "To Noel Gallagher, RIP. Heard your latest album — with deepest sympathy, Robbie Williams." The discourse of the digs has grown more civil in recent years. At a 2011 Take That concert at Wembley Stadium, Williams told the crowd that Noel could kiss his "perfectly formed backside."
Beef Rating: Brisket

Tom Cruise vs. Brook Shields

In 2005 the earnest Mission Impossible star became the butt of thousands of jokes when he lambasted Brook Shields for taking prescription medication to treat postpartum depression. While explaining his controversial stance on the Today Show, he knocked psychiatry calling it a "pseudo science." Shields retaliated in a New York Times op-ed: "If any good can come of Mr. Cruise's ridiculous rant, let's hope that it gives much-needed attention to a serious disease," she wrote.
Beef Rating: Sloppy Joe

Hollywood producers grease their odds of success by spreading the star power on thick, adding a smattering of CGI and sticking with refried franchise reboots, saucy sequels and piquant prequels. The seasoning they choose may change from year to year, but the zing of choice remains habanero-pepper-hot babes.

MIKE DOJC
ichill.ca

7 babes of summer

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Emma Stone, The Amazing Spider-Man

Despite the inherent creepiness of Jim Carrey's infamous video valentine to Stone, his sordid soliloquy is still endemic of the hormonal effect this raspy-voiced firecracker summons up: "I just wanted to let you know that I think you're all the way beautiful. Not just pretty, but, you know, smart and kind-hearted. And if I were a lot younger, I would marry you, and we would have chubby little freckled faced kids. We'd laugh all day long."

Kate Beckinsale, Total Recall

At times it's hard to tell who has a bigger crush on this gorgeous Brit: the Underworld fanboys who lapped up all four iterations of the vampires vs werewolves race war or Hollywood hotshots. With Beckinsale by his side in a fetching white strapless number at the 2012 Golden Globes while presenting an award, comedian Seth Rogen couldn't help himself. "Hello, I'm Seth Rogen, and I'm currently trying to conceal a massive erection," he quipped, clearly not reading off the teleprompter.

Anne Hathaway, The Dark Knight Rises

After catapulting into the spotlight with the Princess Diaries series, the fresh-faced ingenue eventually shed her Disney training wheels and navigated toward more mature and complex characters in Brokeback Mountain and Love and Other Drugs. Hathaway is bound to get the temperature rising when she fills out the figure-hugging Catwoman suit, taking the torch from Halle Berry, Michelle Pfeiffer and all the other smoldering actresses that have caught a bad case of cat scratch fever in Gotham City.

Nikolette Noel, The Expendables 2

When a film has more testosterone then a cell-block at San Quentin you need a lights-out looker to represent womankind. This time out, we lose Mickey Rourke and Steve Austin, but alongside Stallone, Statham, Li, Lundgren, Couture and company are Schwarzenegger and Willis in full-on roles, and Chuck Norris and Jean Claude Van Damme. The daughter of a Hungarian model, this is Noel's highest profile role to date. She plays wife to Liam Hemsworth and no doubt will draw the eye of every other dude.

Mila Kunis, Ted

Mila's it-girl factor has risen meteorically since her days on That 70s Show. Recent risqué roles in Black Swan and Friends with Benefits catapulted her into the Top 10 rankings on practically every "Sexiest Women on the Planet" list in the last couple years. Yet becoming one of the most desired leading ladies in the business has not messed with her head. Last July, a sergeant stationed in Afghanistan made a video asking her out on a date to a Marine Corps Ball with him, and Kunis took him up on the offer.

Rihanna, Battleship

The green-eyed songstress is a remarkably appropriate choice for this $200 million reimagining of the naval war game Milton Bradley originally conceived in 1931. Whenever the need arises the Barbadian beauty can always open her Umbrella to shield herself from an incoming plastic peg. And if the aliens sink her team's submarine (What? You thought the movie would just be Liam Neeson making googly eyes at Rihanna across the deck?), she can just belt out of Man Down. Unlike her racy 2010 album Rated-R, this flick is PG-13, but with Rihanna and Brooklyn Decker aboard, this ship could float a little longer than the Bismarck.

Scarlett Johansson, The Avengers

You'd think with Thor, Captain America, Iron Man, the Hulk, and Nick Fury et al jockeying for screen time the Black Widow would get short thrift. But hey, just because Black Widow's superpowers are pretty puny when compared to her fellow Avengers, nobody tosses Scar-Jo in a corner. One of the most memorable scenes in the flick is Johansson bound to a chair surrounded by a trio of baddies whom she confidently dispatches in stunning fashion. Whether she's zipping into a leather suit or decked out in S.H.I.E.L.D casual, her curves are always set to stun.

Keeping it all in the family

Remake. Son of Benji creator searches for scruffy mutt to create a modern day Benji

Have you seen this dog?

It's a mutt — mischievous, medium-sized, scruffy and street-smart with soulful eyes. Comfortable as hero or underdog, yet likely to be a stray. Must be a fast learner, able to charm millions and willing to work for food.

Brandon Camp, whose father created Benji nearly 40 years ago, and veteran movie trainer Mark Forbes have set out to find a new Benji in a nationwide search that includes online tools and sites that weren't around when the first four Benjis were discovered.

A Facebook page (facebook.com/benjithemovie) has been set up so pet owners and shelter staffs can post pictures and videos of dogs they think could be the next Benji.

Camp and Forbes will scour photos of pets from shelters and rescues across the country, along with sites like petfinder.com and adoptapet.com. Forbes said he was personally visiting every shelter within 75 miles of Los Angeles, where he is general manager and head trainer at Birds and Animals Unlimited.

The original 1974 movie Benji is about a stray who helps save two kidnapped children. It was written, produced, directed and financed by Camp's father, Joe Camp. When he couldn't find a distributor, he and his wife, the late Carolyn Camp, decided to do it themselves.

There would be four sequels, several TV specials, a Saturday morning TV series, a syndicated comic strip and all kinds of merchandizing deals.

More than 73 million people would see Benji at theatres and more than a billion people around the world watch it on television. Millions of DVDs would be sold.

The original Benji was Higgins, adopted in the early 1960s from the Burbank Animal Shelter by late animal trainer Frank Inn. Higgins played Dog in the television series Petticoat Junction for several years. At the age of 14, he became Benji.

The second Benji was Higgins' daughter, the third was a distant relative and the fourth was adopted from the Humane Society of South Mississippi.

"I only have snapshot memories of the original," said Brandon Camp, who was just 3 years old when Benji came out. "The second Benji is the one I grew up with and travelled with and knew and loved."

The dog was so much a part of his life, he was nicknamed Benji at school. The two of them were constantly on the go — from White House Easter egg hunts to morning shows, late shows and show-and-tells.

"I missed most of my first grade because I was travelling around with Benji," said Camp, who directed Love Happens.

When he was 6 or 7, Camp went to New York so Benji could ride a float in the Macy's parade, where thousands of people were trying to get close to see him.

"It was the first time I realized what kind of star he was," he remembers.

Camp said the new movie will stay true to the heart of the original Benji.

"Parents and grandparents will recognize the spirit of Benji," he said. "He was always a mutt and will always be a mutt. He is the everydog."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Resumé

- Trainer Mark Forbes, who will be working on the new Benji film, has plenty of Hollywood animal experience.
- He's worked on 101 Dalmatians, Dr. Doolittle, Marley and Me, We Bought a Zoo, Mr. Popper's Penguins, Evan Almighty and Zookeeper.

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This 1979 photo shows comedian Chevy Chase getting his ear licked from co-star Benji as the two held a news conference in Los Angeles announcing their movie Oh Heavenly Dog. NICK UT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Monsters beware

Abe Lincoln is not the only historical figure who could tangle with the forces of the supernatural and come out on top. These five warriors bring different — but no less effective — weapons in the fight against the forces of darkness.

MICHELLE CASTILLO
Metro News World

Florence Nightingale

Legendary nurse saved countless lives in the Crimean War, and the "lady with the lamp" was a trailblazer for sanitation and hygiene. Her skills would be priceless for containing the infectious zombie plagues that are becoming a constant nuisance.

Cleopatra

The Egyptian pharaoh was a mystic who liked to experiment with witchcraft and substances. So who better to take on the bandaged terror of The Mummy where it lives?

Horatio Nelson

British naval captain and hero of the Napoleonic wars. With such pedigree on the high seas we believe Nelson would have been an expert dragon slayer, capable of dousing any flames, and would have experience with sea monsters too.

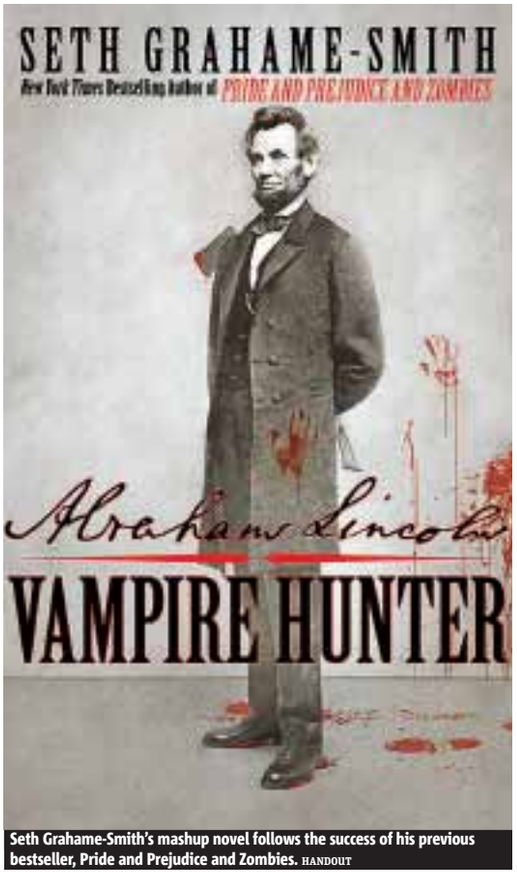
William Gladstone

One of Britain's longest-serving prime ministers. When Gladstone wasn't handling business, he was happiest in his garden, where he earned a reputation for being green-thumbed. Useful in case of a Triffid-style mutant plant attack, or if the Little Shop of Horrors returns.

George Washington

The first U.S. president was an excellent shot and a keen fox hunter. We see no reason why those skills couldn't be transferred to scarier, hairier dogs — such as werewolves.

Who can say Lincoln didn't kill vampires?


SETH GRAHAME-SMITH
New York Times Bestselling Author of PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES
Abraham Lincoln
VAMPIRE HUNTER

Seth Grahame-Smith's mashup novel follows the success of his previous bestseller, Pride and Prejudice and Zombies. HANDOUT

Imaginative mashup. Author Seth Grahame-Smith came up with the idea after seeing Lincoln and Twilight books together

MICHELLE CASTILLO
scene@metronews.ca

Abraham Lincoln was secretly a vampire hunter? Only the detailed, imaginative mind of Seth Grahame-Smith could come up with a tale like this. He's made a living from mashups, like Pride and Prejudice and Zombies and the Dark Shadows.

Metro World News spoke to him about his inspirations and why he chose Lincoln as his "historical revisionist" project.

So, how do you come up with this stuff?
This idea specifically was a weird organic outgrowth of Pride and Prejudice and Zombies. I was going around the country promoting that in 2009, which was coincidentally the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth so every bookstore I'd go into no matter where it was in the United States, I'd see the same display of Lincoln books, biographies, things like that. And, then inevitably there would be the Twilight: True Blood table next to it. I started to draw the distinction of if everywhere you go there are vampire books right in front of the stores, and everywhere you go there are Lincoln books right in front of the stores. It stands to reason that…

Maybe Abraham Lincoln was a vampire hunter?
Maybe there's something to combining them. It just began, a fun little game within myself imagining what it would be like. Would Lincoln be a vampire? I thought, "No that's not really true to his ideals. He would be a vampire hunter. That got me interested enough to read about the real man, and when I started to read about the Lincoln legend I got hooked into it and started to see where all of the opportunities were to add the genre twist to it.

Abraham Lincoln is pretty well-known in the U.S.. What do you think international audiences can glean from it?
What we've made here isn't so much a political movie about a president as much as a superhero movie. It's a superhero origin movie really.

I think they would approach it as — I hope they would see it — whether they know much about Lincoln or not, he's an interesting guy who lived in the 19th century who made himself into — and this is in real life too — made himself into something extraordinary.

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The primary characters of Pixar's latest animated feature film Brave are, from left, King Fergus (voiced by Billy Connolly), Queen

Brave may seem familiar, but it's actually all new

Fairy tale feel. The filmmakers wanted audiences to be lulled into thinking they know what's happening but don't

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

If you walk away from seeing Brave, the new Pixar princess movie, feeling as though the story was familiar, that was on purpose.

"We wanted it have that feeling where you wonder, 'Was that a real fairy tale?'" says producer Katherine Sarafian. "Because it feels like a classic, dark ancient tale but told in a new way."

Director Mark Andrews adds that it took years to fine-tune the story. "We didn't really have the story done, done-done-done-itty-done-done in all its permutations, until December of last year." He says. "In the last three months I honed it. That happens by watching it over and over and over again."

"The film will tell you what it needs and it doesn't need much," says Sarafian. "It doesn't need every bit of dialogue ever recorded. You need to get the point across."

The inspiration for the story of Merida (voiced by Kelly Macdonald), a flame-haired

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Elinor (Emma Thompson) and Merdia (Kelly Macdonald). HANDOUT

Break out the bagpipes

Set in ancient Scotland, many of Brave's voice actors are actually Scottish.

- **Kelly Macdonald as Merida,** was born in Glasgow and still lives there with her husband Dougie Payne from the band Travis.
- **Billy Connolly as King Fergus** was also born in Glasgow, and returned there in 2005 after years of living in Hollywood.
- **Robbie Coltrane as Lord Dingwall.** Born in Ruthergen, Coltrane had to adopt an English accent to play Hagrid in the Harry Potter series.
- **Craig Ferguson as Lord Macintosh.** Also born in Glasgow, he wrote a book called American on Purpose about his immigration experience.
- **Kevin McKidd as Lord MacGuffin.** Born in Elgin, he is best known for his role in Trainspotting, a harrowing film about growing up in Scotland.

tomboy-turned-princess, who clashes with her mother and learns that you have to be careful what you wish for — especially when that wish is granted by an absent-minded witch — came from a number of sources.

"There are stories about people changing onto animals," said Andrews. "There are stories about asking for a wish and it going wrong and teaching you a lesson. There are all those aspects of it in different pieces so we built this thing from scratch; pulling ideas that we know have worked in other places."

The final stop before theatres is the head office of Pixar, home to hits like Finding Nemo, The Incredibles, WALL-E, Up and Toy Story 3.

"The people I have to show the film to have been through it," says Andrews. "They have Academy Awards, so if they say, 'I smell a rat,' I have to get back in there. They are the best guys to have on your side. I want their response."

"Our bosses are creative," says Sarafian. "They have all directed, rather than having suits or business people make the decisions by focus group or budget. They're making decisions based on what they find entertaining based on their experiences and training."

The result is a classic feeling film, with no pop culture references. "We didn't want to be glib," said Sarafian, "we want generations to watch it."

Quoted

"We didn't want to be glib; we want generations to watch it."

Katherine Sarafian, Brave producer
Explaining why there are no pop culture references in the film

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Sheen taking serious 'precautions'

Charlie Sheen admits that he's had to make some changes to the way he parties at his house after last year's very public flameout.

"We take phones and purses at my house, and people have to sign s—," Sheen tells Playboy magazine. "I'm not living in the Pentagon, but I've been burned enough to have to take precautions. It's either that or choose a different type of woman or party guest, because you never know."

And as for why the troubled actor remains popular? He has a theory: "If you're special, you're tortured," he says.

"I know that sounds arrogant, but you can't not be special and have a 30-year career. You can't not be a little different from others and be successful for three decades. Your mind has to work a little differently than the average brain."

Charlie Sheen

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Deadmau5 puts Madonna on notice

MONICA WEYMOUTH
scene@metronews.ca

We weren't the only ones who sensed a little desperation in Madonna's current tour, which has featured more than one awkward striptease.

In the new issue of Rolling Stone, electronic music producer Joel Zimmerman (better know as Deadmau5, or that guy who wears a giant mouse head onstage) called out the pop star for her recent appearance at the Ultra Music Festival, where she asked, "How many people in this crowd have seen Molly?" — a clumsy reference to ecstasy, as is the title of her new album, MDNA.

"You want to be 'hip' and 'cool' and 'funky grandma'? Fine. It's not my place to say you're irrelevant," says Zimmerman. "If you're gonna come into my world, at least do it with a little more dignity."

You heard the man, Madonna. And if you start name-checking wine spritzers on ice, expect to hear from us.

Depp and Paradis are done, rep confirms

After six months of dodging rumours that they were on the rocks, Johnny Depp and Vanessa Paradis have ended their 14-year relationship, Depp's rep confirms in a statement to Entertainment Tonight.

"Johnny Depp and Vanessa Paradis have amicably separated. Please respect their privacy and, more importantly, the privacy of their children," the statement reads. There's no word on how Depp and Paradis, who never married, will handle custody of their children, 12-year-old Lily Rose and nine-year-old Jack.

Johnny Depp. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

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The designer Olympics

The fashion giants face off at London 2012. Who cares about the medals, when some of the cattiest competition will be going on in the style stakes?

RICHARD PECKETT
richard.peckett@metro.lu

Sportswear has always been a sticky topic for fashionable types.

For a start, sports people do require a level of practicality and comfort.

In the fashion world, those are two ugly words used almost exclusively for those individuals who wear hiking gear in the city or running trainers while commuting because they're just easier. I shudder.

The balance between looking good and performing well offers a dilemma that's long plagued athletes who are forced into some over-branded piece of nationalistic lycra worn under what amounts to little more than a shell suit.

Thankfully, in this age of celebrity endorsements and collaborations, the real designer talent has got behind their teams, namely Giorgio Armani (Italy), Stella McCartney and Adidas (Great Britain), Cedella Marley (Jamaica) and Ralph Lauren (USA).

Patriotic, yes and also the perfect piece of marketing with the Games' status as a visual spectacle and of course the potential for a multi-billion global audience.

Italy

You'd expect flair and passion from the Italians, and EA7 Emporio Armani sportswear delivers. Giorgio Armani created a 50-piece collection complete with luggage cut in white and midnight blue, which was the traditional colour pre-1970s. And if Italy's athletes need inspiration they need only look to the first words of Mameli's hymn (national anthem) embroidered on the inside of jackets and sweatshirts.

Great Britain

Great Britain gymnast Louis Smith says of the kit: "I really do love it. I like the way that the Union Jack is incorporated into the leotard and tracksuit — and it's more comfortable than anything I've competed in." Stella McCartney had all the pressure designing for the host nation and she seems to have delivered, despite claims that the design on the chest resembles the X Factor logo. Wishful thinking, perhaps.

Jamaica

Cedella Marley — yes she is Bob Marley's daughter — really did have to create something special, seeing as Usain Bolt is almost a dead certain for the gold. Marley looked to sport, music (there's an element of Buffalo Soldier) and Jamaican culture. There's even a nod to Bob with his face featuring on the shoulder of some track jackets. Marley said at the launch, "A little piece of him is going to be in London."

USA

Ralph Lauren is no stranger to the sports field, or London for that matter, with his regular collections for the Wimbledon staff. Lauren looked to the London 1984 Olympics and the 1930s and 1940s with off-duty cricket-collar shirts and sweatshirts and a dash of patriotic pride thanks to the felt USA appliqués. It's likely to be the biggest hit commercially with the brand's iconic polo player motif.

Canadian Apparel

We stand in style for thee

Metro chats with Suzanne Timmins, senior vice-president and fashion director for the Hudson's Bay Company, about Hudson's Bay Company Olympic Collection.

What was the inspiration behind the 2012 Summer Olympic Team Apparel collection?

We were inspired by sports and the great outdoors. We wanted to create a Summer Olympic collection that our athletes — and all Canadians — would embrace.

What is your favourite piece from the 2012 line that you'll be wearing as you cheer on Team Canada?

The Track Jacket is one of my favourite pieces from the Bay's Canadian Olympic Collection. Sport-inspired varsity jackets and bombers are on-trend, and people stop to talk to me about it all the time.

If you could be an Olympic athlete, which sport would you compete in and why?

I'm not particularly sporty, but if there was an Olympics of shopping, I would definitely win gold!

MELISSA REBER

3 LIFE

Fashion Flash

Adidas pulls shoe over cuff controversy

Adidas cancelled plans for a sneaker with a shackle-like ankle cuff Monday night after some critics said it too closely resembled a symbol of slavery. The JS Roundhouse Mid, a high-top sneaker with an orange plastic cuff, was made in collaboration with fashion designer Jeremy Scott. The sneaker "is nothing more than the designer Jeremy Scott's outrageous and unique take on fashion and has nothing to do with slavery," Adidas said in a statement. "Since the shoe debuted on our Facebook page ahead of its market release in August, Adidas has received both favourable and critical feedback. We apologize if people are offended by the design and we are withdrawing our plans to make them available in the marketplace."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the Web

U.S. athletes will wear uniforms at Olympics that could shave time off sprints

Go big, or don't bring it home

Wall power. Large-scale art is the key to adding impact to a room

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Last year I had the pleasure of meeting Marta Calles, president of Crate & Barrel and former design director of CB2 stores.

Over the past few years both Crate & Barrel and CB2 have made great efforts to enter the Canadian market with many store openings and online web offerings. During our meeting, Marta and I discussed our visions of future home decor trends and in particular, the trending of the royals.

The royal wedding, the Queen's Jubilee and the summer Olympics made us sure everyone would want a little accent of British style in their homes after all these events had passed.

About a week after my meeting I emailed Ms. Calles; thanking her for her time and the great conversation about trends that we'd had. I referred back to our royal-trend discussion and included an image of a small portrait that I had painted of the Queen. Not an artist by any means (my painting was a weekend project) I hoped to show her how far ahead of the royal trend I had been.

To my surprise, Ms. Calles replied back to my email saying she loved the 'attitude' of the painting and wanted to have it reproduced for CB2 stores. Long story short, the painting was reproduced on canvas and enlarged to a whopping 44 inches wide and 60 inches tall; a size of art sure to add impact wherever the painting chooses to live. It will launch this Saturday at all CB2 stores. To be considered somewhat of an artist puts a great check on my bucket list, next thing to tackle will be a recorded song; or perhaps I should just stick to decorating.

I've always professed that one of the easiest ways to add impact to any room is by hanging large scale artwork on the walls. Big art can help add impact to a small or characterless room; and without taking up any floor space.

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A large piece of art helps create a focal point. CB2.COM

How's it hanging?

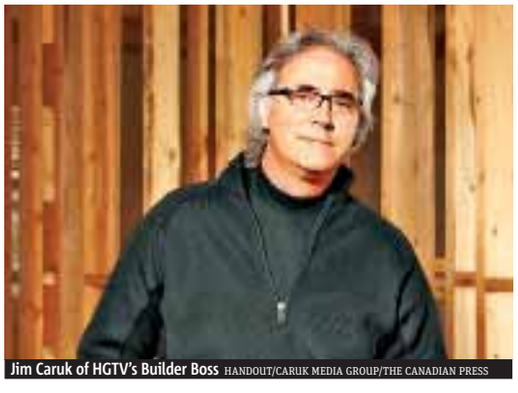
Here's a few things to keep in mind when hanging art in your space:

- **How high?** The middle of your artwork should be hung 66-70 inches off the floor.
- **Consider your other furniture.** The bottom of artwork should be 8-12 inches above headboards, credenzas or sofas.
- **Remember.** Large-scale art helps to create big impact in a small space.
- **Optical illusion.** Hang artwork vertically stacked to help draw the eye upward in a room.

It's All Mine Now limited edition, mixed medium reproduction painting, $329, CB2 stores CB2.COM

Marta Calles, president of Crate & Barrel and yours truly at Toronto's CB2 store. CONTRIBUTED

Believe it or not, home renos don't happen in 22 minutes



Jim Caruk of HGTV's Builder Boss HANDOUT/CARUK MEDIA GROUP/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Reality check. Jim Caruk offers an insider view of house repairs and revamp in HGTV's Builder Boss

While "the big reveal" remains a centrepiece on home renovation shows, there's considerable time and toiling that occurs behind the scenes to refurbish and transform spaces featured on-air.

Longtime contractor Jim Caruk and his team offer an insider perspective of the pinnacles and pitfalls of home construction on Builder Boss which premieres Thursday at 10:30 p.m. ET on HGTV.

"We want (viewers) to understand the building process because it's a huge industry; and I think over the last 10 to 12 years it's even gotten bigger with all these shows that are coming out. But what isn't shown on some of these different shows is the actual time element," Caruk said in a recent interview.

"We blow this thing off in 22 minutes, but it's taken us a year to build — and people don't get that concept. And if they don't understand what they're going to get themselves into — if they're going to renovate their home — it's going to be a disaster."

Caruk filmed seven seasons of HGTV's Real Renos and said Builder Boss takes the previous series to the next level. The show features 13 new builds — nearly double what Caruk and his team would take on in a typical year.

"Needless to say, it was not only exciting but it was definitely gruelling, punishing — everything else to go along with that," said the owner of The Caruk Group.

"Our goal is ... to bring the audience back and take them through the day in the life of a custom builder and show them the real stress and the make-and-break moments of the whole industry. As I like to say, it's time, money and emotion — they don't go well together."

Builder Boss returns to its regular time slot on June 28 at 10 p.m. ET with back-to-back episodes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Greet these warm summer days with Grilled Salmon (in two tasty ways)

In The New Granville Island Market Cookbook, authors Judie Glick and Carol Jensson offer a range of enticing recipes that span the seasons and showcase the ingredients available at the Granville Island Public Market.

One of the recipes is for this Grilled Salmon, which can be made in two ways. You can add your favourite sauce to enhance the grilled salmon or garnish with just a wedge of lemon.

Serve it with roasted new potatoes and a simple salad.

Ingredients

Option 1

- 1 whole salmon fillet, about 1 kg (2 lb)
- Salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste

Option 2

- 60 ml (4 tbsp) mayonnaise (full fat is best)
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) lemon juice
- 5 ml (1 tsp) salt
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) freshly ground pepper
- 1 whole salmon fillet, about 1 kg (2 lb)

Option 1

1. Heat barbecue to medium. Oil grill to prevent sticking.

2. Place fillet, skin side down, on barbecue. Close lid and let salmon cook through, 10 to 15 minutes. Place on a platter and serve.

Option 2

1. Heat barbecue to medium. Oil grill to prevent sticking.

2. In bowl, mix mayonnaise, lemon juice, salt and pepper. Place fillet, skin side down, on a sheet of foil and evenly spread mayonnaise mixture over top. Tent foil over salmon and place on barbecue.

3. Grill for 10 to 15 minutes until fish is cooked through. Place on a platter and serve. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/ THE NEW GRANVILLE ISLAND MARKET COOKBOOK (ARSENAL, 2012).**

Grilled Salmon Two Ways

Both options serve four people. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Book of the week

Vancouver staple

When Vancouver's Granville Island Public Market opened in 1979, Judie Glick was one of the original vendors. Her love of food inspired her to create a cookbook honouring the market.

Now, Glick has teamed up with Carol Jensson, another longtime market resident, for The New Granville Island Market Cookbook (Arsenal, 2012).

The book is divided into the four seasons, with recipes for appetizers, soups and salads, entrées and fruits, sweets and baked goods. They revamped some of the recipes from the original book — making them lighter and fresher — and added some new ones. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Cooking technique: The secret to tender and juicy ribs

This recipe serves six. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

To boil or not to boil? To rub or not to rub? However you like them, barbecued ribs are a huge treat during the summer.

This recipe includes directions for pre-baking, which gives a guaranteed tender result (and, frankly, the idea of slow cooking on the barbecue can be a bit daunting). Use the barbecue to finish the cooking.

The sauce used for these ribs is a combination of regional barbecue styles.

1. Heat oven to 180 C (350 F).

2. Place ribs on a baking sheet. In a small bowl, mix all the spices; rub into ribs. Place ribs in a roasting pan and bake for 2 to 2 1/2 hours. Let cool.

3. Meanwhile, in a medium saucepan on low heat, combine all barbecue sauce ingredients. Stir occasionally until sugar has melted and ingredients have blended well. Use immediately or let cool and store in refrigerator until ready to use.

4. Heat barbecue to medium. Oil grill to prevent sticking.

Ingredients

- 2 racks pork baby back ribs, about 750 g (1 1/2 lb), cut into 10-cm (4-inch) pieces
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) paprika
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) onion powder
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) garlic powder
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) dry mustard
- 5 ml (1 tsp) salt
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) ground pepper
- Barbecue Sauce (recipe follows)

Barbecue Sauce

- 250 ml (1 cup) ketchup
- 250 ml (1 cup) chili sauce
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) brown sugar
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) minced onion
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) garlic powder
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) onion powder
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) apple cider vinegar
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) Worcestershire sauce
- 5 ml (1 tsp) dry mustard
- 1 to 2 drops hot sauce
- Ground pepper to taste

5. Slather ribs with sauce and place on grill. Cook for about 15 minutes, until outsides are slightly crispy and the ribs are warmed through. Brush with more sauce while grilling. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/ THE NEW GRANVILLE ISLAND MARKET COOKBOOK (ARSENAL, 2012).**

Seafood Pasta Salad. A classic recipe that makes a great summer lunch

This timeless recipe is from the The New Granville Island Market Cookbook's first edition.

Back then, the authors wrote, "The secret to its taste is the tangy marinade, which is absorbed by the pasta before dressing is added."

The Seafood Pasta Salad makes a great summer lunch or light dinner.

1. Cook pasta in boiling water until al dente (8 to 10 minutes), then drain and place in a large bowl.

2. In a small bowl, combine red wine vinegar, lemon juice, basil, garlic and chili and pour over hot pasta. Let pasta cool in marinade and then refrigerate until chilled. Drain excess liquid after cooling.

3. In a bowl, combine dressing ingredients and toss with pasta to mix well. Refrigerate if not serving immediately.

4. Mix in seafood just before serving. Garnish with fresh dill.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ THE NEW GRANVILLE ISLAND MARKET COOKBOOK (ARSENAL, 2012).

Ingredients

4 portions

- 250 g (1/2 lb) dried rotini (spinach or tri-colour pasta is a nice touch)
- 250 ml (1 cup) shrimp, crab or any combination of cooked fish
- Chopped fresh dill, to garnish

Marinade

- 50 ml (1/4 cup) red wine vinegar
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) lemon juice
- 10 ml (2 tsp) finely chopped fresh basil
- 1 garlic clove, finely chopped
- 1 dried chili pepper, crumbled

Dressing

- 125 ml (1/2 cup) mayonnaise
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) cream cheese
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) wine vinegar
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) Dijon mustard
- 10 ml (2 tsp) finely chopped fresh dill
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) lemon juice

4

SPORTS

NHL

Karlsson grabs Norris day after signing big deal with Sens

Ottawa's Erik Karlsson has taken home his first Norris Trophy as the NHL's top defenceman at the league's awards ceremony. The 22-year-old Swede beat out Boston's Zdeno Chara and Nashville's Shea Weber for the first award in Las Vegas on Wednesday night. Karlsson led all defencemen with 78 points in his breakout season for the Senators, scoring 25 more points than anybody else at his position. Karlsson agreed to a seven-year contract extension worth $45.5 million US with the Senators on Tuesday.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Roger Clemens was acquitted Monday on all charges that he obstructed and lied to Congress in denying he used performance-enhancing drugs. So does the seven-time Cy Young winner now have a better case to be inducted into Cooperstown? Scan the code for the story.

Ryan Braun is tagged out at the plate by Blue Jays catcher Jeff Mathis on Wednesday in Milwaukee. MIKE MCGINNIS/GETTY IMAGES

Blue Jays brushed aside by Brewers

MLB. Toronto bats can't make up for injury-ravaged pitching staff

Toronto's pitching staff remains desperately short-handed and the Blue Jays weren't able to hit their way out of trouble this time.

With injuries testing the depth of the rotation, emergency starter Joel Carreno gave up three home runs in a five-run second inning and the Blue Jays lost to the Milwaukee Brewers 8-3 on Wednesday.

Carreno (0-2) took the loss shortly after being called up from Triple-A Las Vegas.

"It's not the ideal situation when you have to take an overnight flight in here," Jays manager John Farrell said. "That's the circumstances we're in. We're not going to use that as an excuse. It's not the ideal situation."

Despite rallying in the ninth to win Tuesday night, Toronto lost two out of three games to Milwaukee. The Jays also lost third baseman Brett Lawrie, who left the game with right knee soreness — although Farrell said the move was precautionary.

"It's OK," Lawrie said. "It's not enough to make me not play. At the same time, I just thought that it was time to throw some ice on it. Obviously, tomorrow we have an off-day which is good. We can treat it tomorrow, ice it all day. I'll be back in there on the next day."

And despite the injury issues on the Blue Jays pitching staff, Lawrie said there isn't undue pressure on the offence.

"I think all series there was a combined 16 home runs and we had 10 of them," Lawrie said. "So it's right there, we're swinging the bats well."

Edwin Encarnacion hit his 20th home run of the season for the Blue Jays, a solo shot in the second.

Yovani Gallardo (6-5) went 6 2/3 innings for Milwaukee, giving up three runs and seven hits with two walks and seven strikeouts. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wednesday's game

Brewers	Jays
8	3

Pitching help

The Jays claimed right-hander David Pauley on waivers from the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim on Wednesday.

- Pauley, 29, made five relief appearances for the Angels this season posting an 0-1 record with a 4.35 ERA. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Tulowitzki set to have surgery, return in limbo

Colorado Rockies shortstop Troy Tulowitzki will have surgery on his left groin area on Thursday and it's unknown when he'll return.

Tulowitzki was injured May 30 against Houston, pulling up after running out an infield grounder. The all-star shortstop took himself out of a game last Wednesday at Triple-A Colorado Springs after feeling not quite right.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Troy Tulowitzki
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Cycling

Hesjedal nets over $10K for Giro pink jersey

One of Ryder Hesjedal's pink jerseys from his Giro d'Italia victory has fetched $10,300 US on EBay.

The first Canadian man to win one of cycling's three Grand Tours put his Stage 7 autographed jersey up for auction.

Hesjedal has said the money will go to Canadian Athletes Now Fund, or CanFund, and also to his own cycling foundation.

A pink jersey, or maglia rosa, is worn by the Giro d'Italia's overall leader.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL. Harvin wants out of Minnesota: Source

Percy Harvin was nowhere to be found at the Minnesota Vikings' mandatory mini-camp practice Wednesday afternoon, and no one seems to know when the receiver will be back.

Unhappy with several issues with the team that drafted him in 2009, Harvin requested a trade, a person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity.

After participating in a light walk-through practice on Wednesday morning with his teammates, Harvin wasn't present for the full afternoon practice. Head coach Leslie Frazier declined to go into detail on Harvin's absence and said he wasn't sure if one of the team's most important players would be around for the final day Thursday.

"We're going to talk more in detail," Frazier said. "We have a lot of things to talk about." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"We have no interest at all in trading Percy Harvin."
Rick Spielman, Vikings general manager

NBA

OKC assistant lands job as new Orlando GM

The Orlando Magic hired Rob Hennigan to be the team's new general manager on Wednesday.

Hennigan spent the past four seasons with Oklahoma City, including the past two seasons as the Thunder's assistant general manager/player personnel. Prior to joining the Thunder, Hennigan spent four seasons with the San Antonio Spurs.

The Magic still need to find a new head coach after firing Stan Van Gundy last month. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA. Hornets part with veterans Ariza and Okafor

The New Orleans Hornets traded forward Trevor Ariza and centre Emeka Okafor to the Washington Wizards on Wednesday for forward Rashard Lewis and a second-round draft pick.

Lewis is entering the last season of a $118-million US, six-year contract and could be a candidate for the NBA's amnesty clause, meaning he may not end up playing for the Hornets if New Orleans chooses to cut him loose in order to clear space under the salary cap.

"We are rebuilding our team and this is one step in our new direction," Hornets general manager Dell Demps said.

Emeka Okafor GETTY IMAGES FILE

"This trade will provide an opportunity for our young players to develop and create flexibility to add to our core group moving forward."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA finals

James getting over cramps, eyeing championship

LeBron James has never been here before.

He's been in nearly every imaginable situation over his nine seasons marked by three MVP awards, three trips to the NBA finals with two teams, and one decision that changed everything.

And now this: For the first time, he's one win from a championship.

"I have a job to do," James said Wednesday. "And my job is not done."

The job may get done Thursday night, when the Miami Heat — up 3-1 in this title series — host the Oklahoma City Thunder in Game 5 of the finals. Even after leaving Game 4 late with a cramp, James is on the cusp of finally becoming a champ. He was swept in his first finals trip in 2007, then he and the Heat fell in the 2011 title series in six games.

James got treatment again Wednesday but said soreness that followed the cramps in his left leg was easing. He could not finish Game 4, though he returned after the first wave of cramps hit and delivered a key three-pointer.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LeBron James GETTY IMAGES

NBA finals

Harden expected to play Game 5

Oklahoma City reserve James Harden has a bruised left hand but is expected to play Thursday in Game 5 of the NBA finals.

Harden was hurt during the Thunder's 104-98 loss to the Miami Heat on Tuesday. A Thunder spokesman says Harden took part in some of Wednesday's practice, but also iced his hand and sat out a portion.

The Sixth Man of the Year's struggles have helped the Heat build a 3-1 lead. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chief ref admits 'mistake' on Ukraine goal

Ukraine should have been awarded a goal in its European Championship game against England, UEFA refereeing chief Pierluigi Collina said Wednesday.

"We made a mistake," Collina said. "I wish we hadn't made the mistake but we did. Referees are human beings and human beings make mistakes."

England defender John Terry made a goal-line clearance in the decisive group match in Donetsk on Tuesday, but replays showed the ball was over the line. England led 1-0 at the time.

Collina said Hungarian referee Viktor Kassai and his team of assistants would play no further part in the tournament, but no blame was attributed to the referee. He said Kassai would have found himself under too much pressure if he had stayed.

"Kassai is one of the best referees in Europe," Collina said.

Collina and UEFA executives faced hostile questioning about Tuesday's decision and the use of goal-line technology, which is being tested by FIFA.

UEFA said that of 302 close decisions made by referees in the 24 matches so far, 289 of them were correct and 13 incorrect, a 95.7 per cent accuracy rate.

"That's a huge result, even though we must still improve," Collina said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"After (Tuesday) night's match, (goal-line technology) is no longer an alternative but a necessity."

FIFA president Sepp Blatter on Twitter Wednesday.

Government reaction

Ukraine PM saw goal from stands

Ukraine's prime minister says even he saw the ball cross the line.

Mykola Azarov attended the European Championship soccer match between his country and England on Tuesday night, when Ukraine striker Marko Devic's shot appeared to go over the line before being cleared away by defender John Terry.

"If I saw from the stands that the ball had crossed the goal line, the referee was bound to see that," Azarov said in an interview Wednesday.

He called on UEFA to "draw conclusions about this refereeing ... so that such incidents don't take place in the future."

"These days there are five referees on the pitch, including a referee near the line who was obliged to have registered the goal," he added.

If the goal had been awarded, Ukraine would have tied the score at 1-1.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ronaldo key to Portugal's success against Czechs

Euro 2012. Czech Republic coach Bilik puts emphasis on smothering Portuguese star

Cristiano Ronaldo scores his team's second goal past Maarten Stekelenburg of the Netherlands Sunday in Kharkov, Ukraine. IAN WALTON/GETTY IMAGES

Cristiano Ronaldo now gets the royal, reverential treatment at the European Championship even from some of his opponents.

The Czech Republic faces Portugal on Thursday and by now, most are in such awe of the creative talents of the Real Madrid superstar that there is no point in hiding tactics.

It is clear that Portugal will seek to push Ronaldo forward to expose the Czech defence, and equally clear that Czech coach Michal Bilik has already planned on how to deny him the necessary space to spread his magic.

"If Ronaldo runs, it is impossible to stop him," Bilik said on the eve of the quarter-final. "We have to close the defence and not give him any space."

If the opponents are already full of admiration, Ronaldo's own teammates tried to outdo one another.

Midfielder Joao Moutinho called Ronaldo the best in the world — better even than Lionel Messi — and coach Paulo Bento protected him when his lack of defending was questioned.

"Every player has his own function or task," Bento said. "We try to combine this in the best possible way."

This comes after Ronaldo was criticized for two wasteful games that put Portugal on the brink of elimination. Then he produced two goals and perhaps his best international game in a 2-1 come-from-behind win over the Netherlands to earn Portugal a spot in the quarter-finals. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Past matches

- The Czech Republic and Portugal have met twice since the split of Czechoslovakia in 1993. Both encounters took place at European Championships.
- The Czechs stunned Portugal 1-0 in the 1996 quarter-finals in England, while the Portuguese won a group-stage match 3-1 in 2008 at the tournament co-hosted by Austria and Switzerland.

Euro 2012. French squad had 'heated' locker-room spat

Florent Malouda GETTY IMAGES FILE

Tensions are creeping into the French camp at the European Championship, with the players involved in a "heated" bust-up following the team's 2-0 loss to Sweden.

France, which was hit by internal strife at the 2010 World Cup, capitulated against the Swedes on Tuesday and would have lost more heavily if goalkeeper Hugo Lloris had not made several saves.

Although the defeat did not prevent France from advancing to a quarter-final against Spain, the manner of it exasperated coach Laurent Blanc and senior players like Florent Malouda.

"Yes, it got a bit heated, but then everyone had a cold shower," Blanc said Wednesday. "It shows that there was a bit of electricity. I hope there will be against Spain, because we'll need it."

Malouda chose not to speak to the media after the defeat as he was afraid of what he might say. He was part of the World Cup squad that shocked a nation by going on strike at training two years ago after Nicolas Anelka was sent home.

"What I saw (against Sweden) awoke some demons in me and I didn't want to express myself," Malouda said. "Because in the heat of the moment there was the risk of launching rockets and missiles."

France has worked hard to rebuild its image since Blanc replaced the unpopular Raymond Domenech, but Malouda raised concerns that a casual attitude could be returning — and he wants it stamped out. Malouda fears the French could get thrashed by Spain if they don't improve their attitude.

"It's at times like these that you really need a discussion between the players. Because if we don't sort things out before Saturday, with the opponent we have coming up, the bill could be expensive," he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Burke prepared to wait on top draft pick

NHL. Maple Leafs GM at peace with No. 5 selection not having an immediate impact

Brian Burke won't be seeking an immediate solution to the Toronto Maple Leafs' problems at the upcoming draft.

Even though the Leafs general manager is heading to Pittsburgh with the fifth-overall selection, he doesn't plan on calling a player's name who will don the blue and white next season.

"We don't think anyone that we get at five is going to play (in the NHL) right away," Burke said Tuesday night after the NHL's board of governors meeting.

It is setting up as a wide-open draft. Beyond top-rated prospect Nail Yakupov, there isn't much consensus among scouts on how the next few picks will play out at Consol Energy Center on Friday night.

As a result, Burke remains open to the possibility of trading a few spots up or down depending on how the dominoes fall.

He hinted that he'd like to come home with a centre — the Leafs have been thin at the position for years — but he remains open to other possibilities as well in a draft he feels has "quality at every position."

"Drafting positionally probably doesn't make sense," said Burke. "This is the one time in my life I've considered it — if there were a certain position available we might try to fill. We usually go with the best available athlete and that's the way I intend to go."

Over the years, Burke has solidified his reputation as one of the NHL's best wheelers-and-dealers with some bold moves on the draft floor. If he's working on a similar transaction this week, he did an excellent job of keeping his cards close to the vest.

Asked point blank about the possibility of luring the No. 1 selection from the Edmonton Oilers, Burke indicated he wasn't interested.

"I have no sense from Edmonton that that pick's in play," he said. "If someone's trying to actively get that pick it's not us."

Draft week is all about hope for every team involved.

This will be just the second time since 1989 that the Leafs have selected in the top five and there's every reason to believe that they'll be able to add a high-level prospect to their system.

"The reward you have for a poor year is a high pick," said Burke. "We expect to get a guy at five that's going to be an impact player for us some day, maybe not right away."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Going the trade route

This sets up as an important summer for a Leafs team that hasn't qualified for the playoffs since 2004. Burke is in his fourth year at the helm of the team and expected success to come a lot sooner than it has.

With a fairly thin free-agent class set to hit the market on July 1, Burke believes the best way to improve his team is via trade. He hasn't been able to make much headway with his colleagues of late but vows to keep working the phones.

Toronto Maple Leafs general manager Brian Burke answers questions at the NHL entry draft on June 25, 2011, in St Paul, Minn. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

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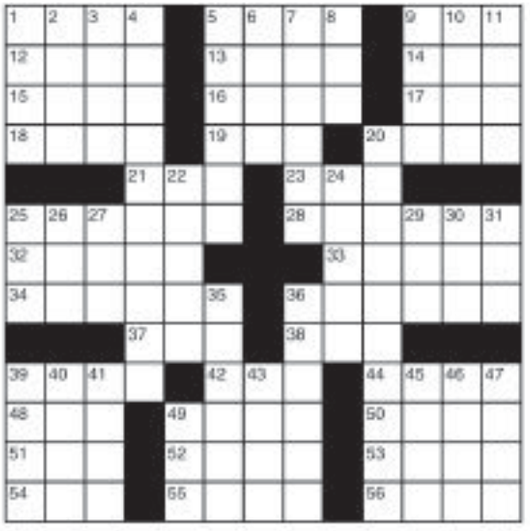

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	■	9	10	11
12				■	13				■	14		
15				■	16				■	17		
18				■	19			■	20			
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39	40	41		■	42	43		■	44	45	46	47
48			■	49				■	50			
51			■	52				■	53			
54			■	55				■	56			

5			2					
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	4		5	1		3		
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How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

2	9	6	8	3	7	1	5	4
1	7	5	2	4	9	6	8	3
3	8	4	5	1	6	2	9	7
4	1	7	9	2	8	3	6	5
5	2	9	6	7	3	8	4	1
6	3	8	4	5	1	7	2	9
7	6	2	3	9	5	4	1	8
9	4	1	7	8	2	5	3	6
8	5	3	1	6	4	9	7	2

Yesterday's Crossword

Cryptoquip

How to play
This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

S O E Z W F W B E C U W Z S O T D H H S K W, A D J D G V G M M D V W W B M F D J W W V' K D - N D C U W C V E C W K D O V S A W C W A K E F F - F W E T G W V?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MY WALL-COVERING BUSINESS HAS BEEN GETTING MUCH SLOWER. YOU MIGHT SAY PAPERING IS TAPERING.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals O

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. Travel and social activities are well starred today and for several days to come, so get up and get at 'em.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. You will be tempted to splash out on pretty things, both for yourself and as gifts for other people. It's good of you to be so generous but can you really afford it?

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. By all means, make an effort to see things from someone else's point of view but don't go too far and betray your own beliefs.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. You want to do good deeds for people but don't spend so much time helping strangers that you neglect those you are closest to emotionally.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. In some people's eyes, you have been a bit too self-obsessed of late. Time to remind them you're a nice guy.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. People in positions of authority will go out of their way to help you today. This may surprise you considering how difficult they have been in recent weeks but it's not a trick.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. Venus, your ruler, is aligned with Uranus, planet of changes, so if you need to shake things up a bit, you'll find it easy to do so.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. The intensity of your feelings may surprise you today, but only because you have bottled up your emotions for so long. Something will happen that brings it all out into the open.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. Partnerships generally and affairs of the heart in particular will improve to no end over the next few days.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. Something you took a bit too seriously in the past will no longer worry you. In fact, you'll put it out of your mind for good.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. No matter how much your creative efforts may have been hindered in the past, you will find it easy to sidestep obstructions and do something extraordinary now.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. Try to be a bit more discerning about who you show warmth and regard for. Yes, of course, each soul is precious but you cannot give your heart to everyone. **SALLY BROMPTON**

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"Nik Wallenda's got nothing on me!"
Liz

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Price and Payments are plus HST & license. Cost of borrowing sample on $10,000 is $2181 O.A.C. Payments are calculated with $750 down 4.99% based on 84 months for 2011,10,09...60 months for 2007,08. '12 Chrysler 300 $26,988, '11 Dodge Gr. Caravan $19,988, '11 Jeep Gr. Cherokee $34,988, '11 Dodge Charger $23,988, 11' Chev. Malibu $17,988, '10 Dodge Charger $18,988, '10 Jeep Liberty $17,988, '09 Pontiac G3 $10,988, '09 Mazda Tribute $16,988, '09 Ram 1500 $21,988, '08 Jeep Patriot $14,988, '08 Honda Civic $12,988, '08 Ram 1500 $19,988, '08 Chrysler T&C $15,988, '07 Chrysler PT Cruiser $9,998, '09 Jeep Wrangler Sport X $17,998. *former daily rentals, Sale promotion ends June 23 2012.